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Abstract:

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A single geocoded data layer is created by converting centroid related data to a line by adding or subtracting a distance at a predetermined direction from the centroid to derive an endpoint from the centroid defining the line (taking the form of a radial extending from the centroid). The source of the centroid related data is utilized to determine the direction of the line. The single geocoded data layer allows for one pass searching of geocoded data, and provides a display with more information than a simple match to a point or centroid. The radial display may take any form. Unconfirmed locations in the database may be related only to a centroid, and a display program automatically calculates a radial for display in conjunction with the centroid. The display may be the form of a radial, a radial with notches (representing additional matches), colors, or other shapes, etc.

In the Claims:

Please cancel the following claims without prejudice: claims 2, 5, and 17-19 of claim set #1, all claims of claim set #2, and all claims of claim set #3. For the convenience of the Examiner, all presently pending claims are reproduced below:

1. A method, comprising the steps of:
identifying an anchor point;
defining at least one radial extending from said anchor point; and
associating at least one item relating to said anchor point with said radials.
2. (Canceled)
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

interpolating positions on a respective radial corresponding to each of outside data matches corresponding to the respective radial; and

placing a marker at each interpolated position of the displayed respective radial.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said marker is any of a point, notch, and icon representation of information associated with each outside data match.

5. (Canceled)

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
storing said radials in a database;
wherein,
said step of identifying an anchor point comprises the step of,
identifying said anchor point in said database, and
said step of associating comprises the step of,
associating information in said database with said radials, said information relating to said anchor point.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said database is a geocoded database of mapping information, and said items are locations within an area associated with said anchor point.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said database is a database of satellite information, said anchor point represents a position on a globe, and said items are satellites orbiting above an approximate position of said anchor point.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each radial identifies at least one feature of at least one of said satellites.
10. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
matching outside data to information associated with said items; and
displaying each radial having associated information that matches said outside data.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said outside data is location information of data stored in said database.
12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of defining a radial comprises the steps of:
assigning a direction to each respective radial; and
calculating an endpoint for each respective radial, defining each respective radial from said centroid to its endpoint.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said step of determining a direction of said radial comprises the step of:
assigning a direction to each respective radial based on at least one of information and features of the item associated with the respective radial.
14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said information and features is at least one of a margin of error with which said anchor point identifies a location corresponding to said item, facilities, including any one of parking, food, and communications associated with said item, and any other information or features related to said item.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said anchor point is a centroid and each item is a location within an area associated with said centroid.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein each radial identifies a location within an area of said centroid, and a proximity of said location to said centroid.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)